Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

A NEW DAWN

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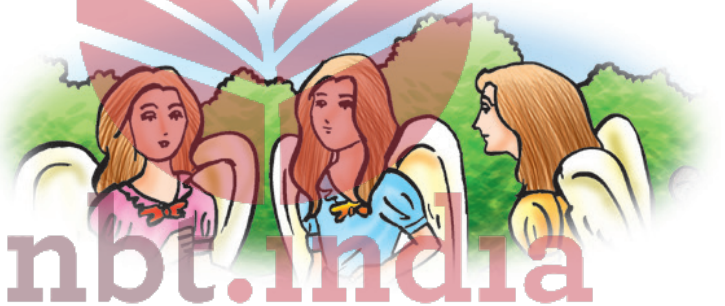

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After a stroll in the forest, Shikha fairy was feeling uneasy. An incident in the forest kept haunting her. She was disturbed and worried.

This became a cause of concern for other fairies too. They tried hard to amuse and divert her attention. In spite of that, Shikha's eyes were gripped with the image of that ferocious Lion. He was killing ten to fifteen animals a day for the sake of fun because eating them all was beyond his appetite.

He was killing far more animals than what was necessary. This was the reason why all the animals of jungle were worried. This fear did not allow them to eat or sleep. Shikha fairy had gone to the jungle for a stroll just to refresh her mind. But when she saw this gory sight it shook her and she returned to the fairyland. Since then she was in distress. She wanted to teach a lesson to the arrogant Lion. She wanted to tell him to hunt just to satiate his hunger. And that he should not kill for amusement. Other fairies also joined in to find a solution to this problem.

Finally, the fairies held a meeting on this issue. After giving it due thought, they decided to try their best to transform the mind of this ferocious Lion.

On hearing this decision some fairies became aghast. However, since a decision had been taken they had to abide by it and begin their journey.

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The jungle was far away from the fairyland. Nevertheless, the fairies reached the dense jungle within two days with their luggage. They dispersed in various directions and started searching for the Lion's den.

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Sweety fairy first met Mr Bear. She asked for the whereabouts of the Lion King. On hearing Sweety fairy's words, Mr Bear felt afraid and got lost in thoughts. Sweety fairy asked, "Mr Bear, what are you thinking? I can clearly notice fear in your eyes. What's the matter?"

Mr Bear said in fear, "Nothing, nothing. I will give you his address but you need to be a bit careful."

Sweety fairy declared, "Lion King is my uncle." Mr Bear quickly gave her the Lion's address.

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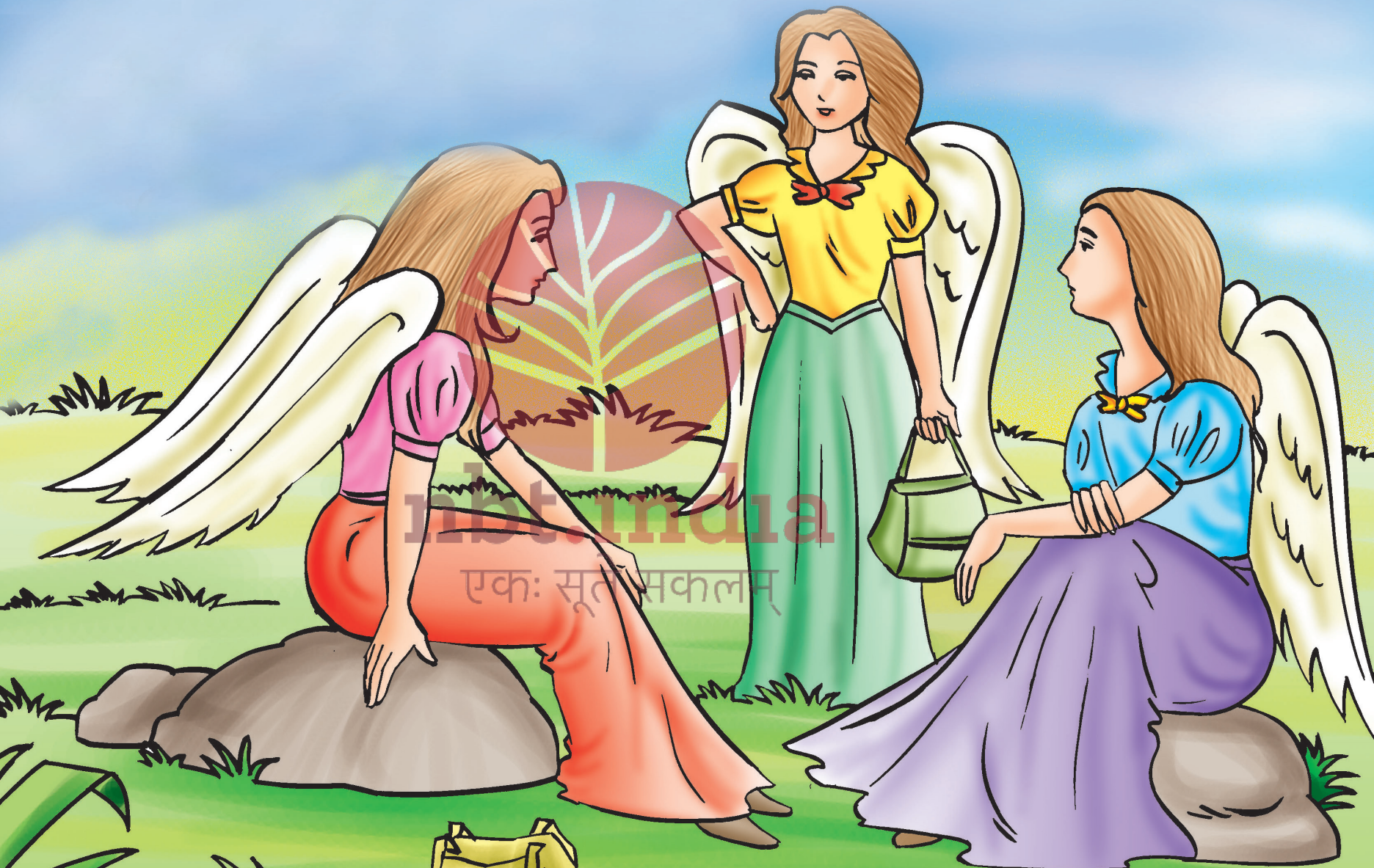
Sweety fairy returned to Shikha fairy. Similarly, other fairies also declared the Lion to be their relative and returned with his whereabouts.



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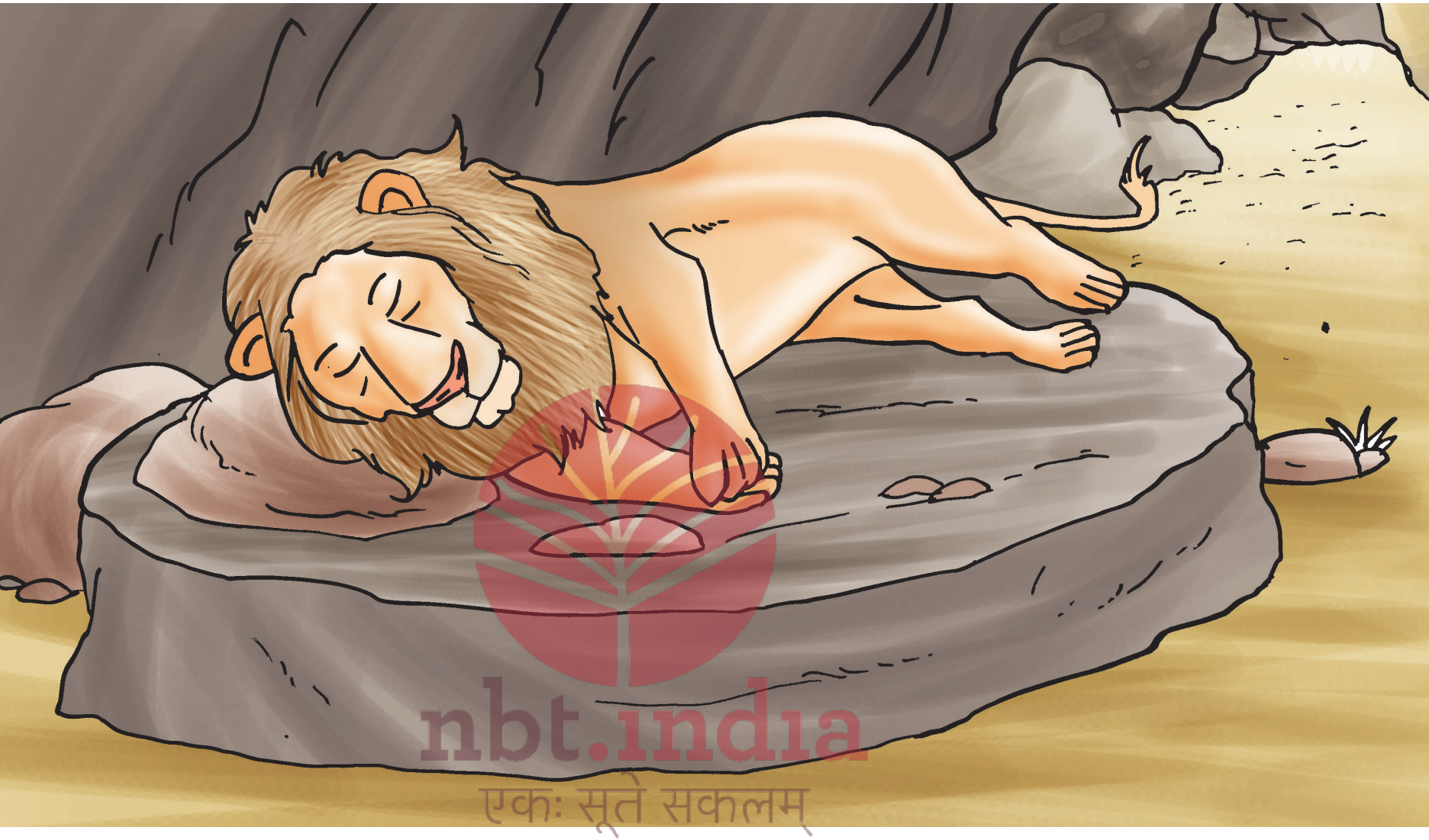
Meanwhile, the animals in the forest began thinking as to why those beautiful girls had come to the jungle to meet the Lion King. He would gobble them up. The Lion was so cruel that everybody in the jungle was upset with him. For this reason, the animals narrated various tales of his cruelty to the fairies and warned them against him. Later, all animals decided to welcome those little girls and threw a party for the guests of the jungle.

All the animals got engaged in extending hospitality to the fairies. The Elephant brought a large pack of sugarcane. The Bear brought a bowl full of honey. The Monkey arranged for a variety of fruits. Everybody brought something or the other. They all sat together for a hearty meal. In the meantime, the fairies learnt that the Lion King was very wicked in nature and that is why all animals hated him. Even though one animal would suffice his hunger he was killing nearly ten to fifteen!



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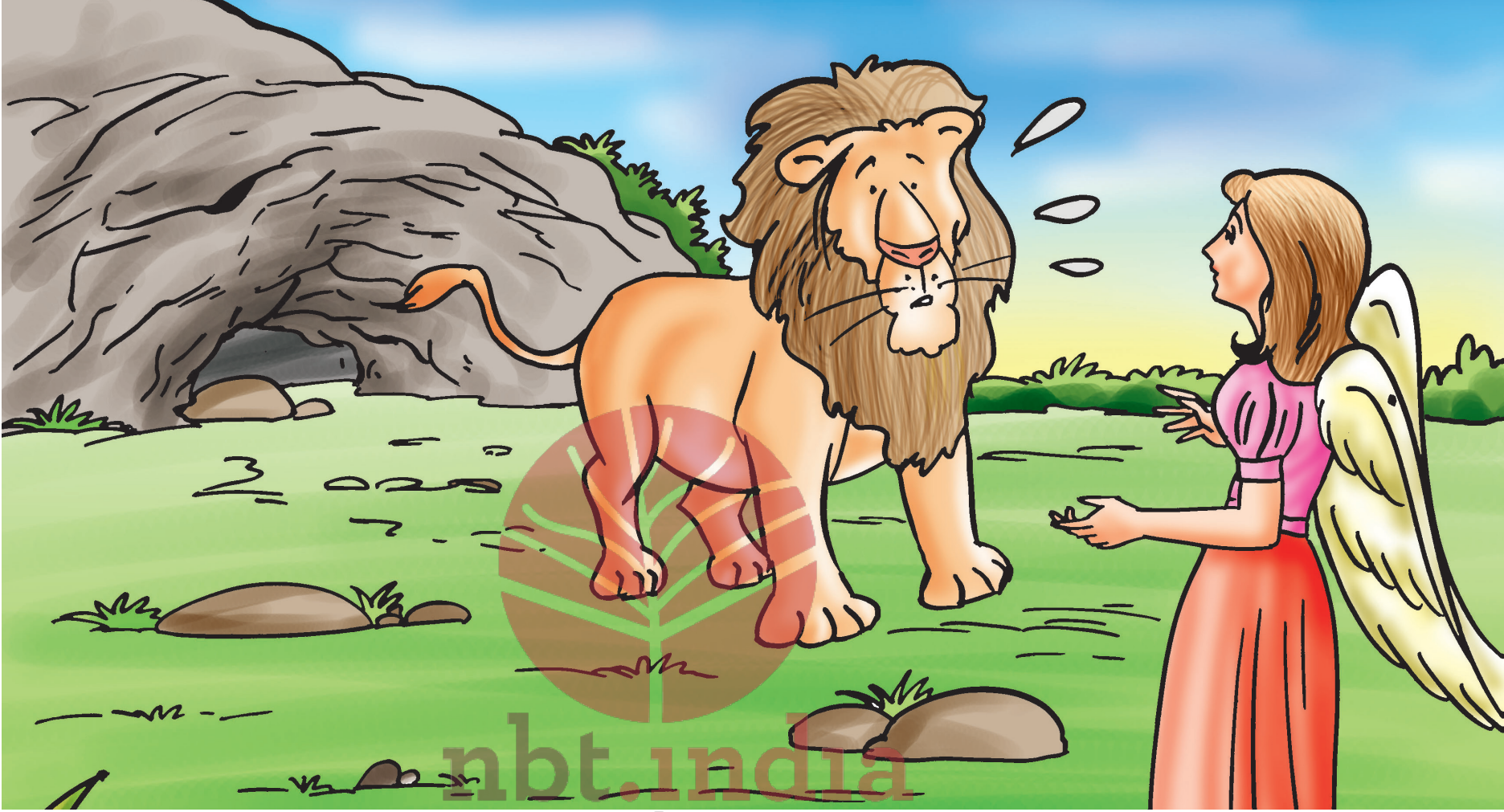
The Lion King, on the other hand, was resting in his den. Suddenly he heard voices, "Uncle, uncle, big brother open the door."



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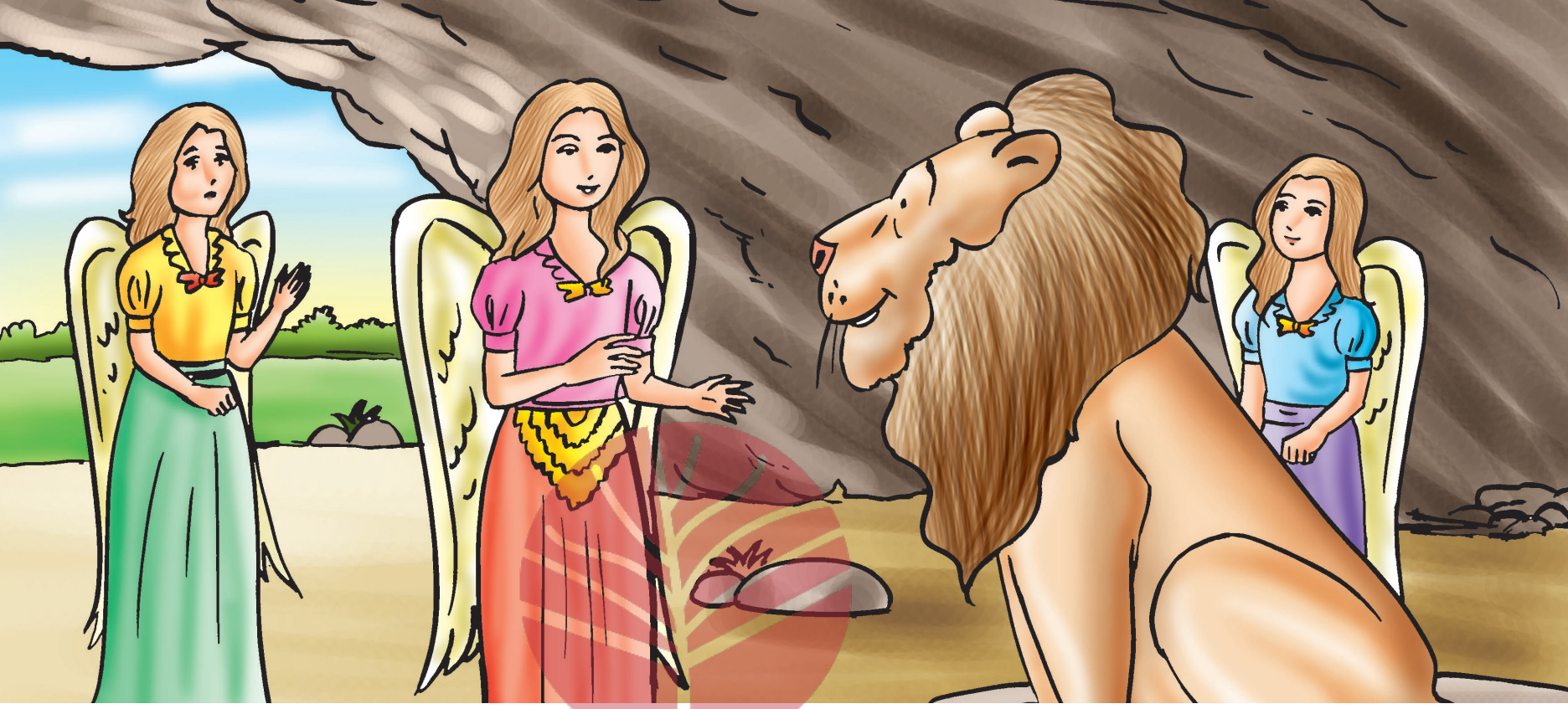
On hearing the sweet voices, the Lion walked out of his den. His head became dizzy when he saw a herd of lions big and small. Then Shikha fairy came forward and said, "Big brother, you have forgotten us." Lion felt as if he had forgotten everything!

The fairies pretended to be relatives of the Lion. They did not give any chance to the Lion to think and kept him engaged in conversation. From inside they were surprised as to why



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the Lion was not attacking them. Only Shikha fairy knew the secret. Due to her magic all the fairies appeared as lions to the Lion King.

After some time when the fairies came out of the den, the Lion King came out to see them off. The animals of the forest were taken aback. They discussed among themselves, "We had a wrong opinion about our King. Our King appears to be very kind-hearted. May be, a lion from some other forest comes everyday and kills the animals of our jungle!"

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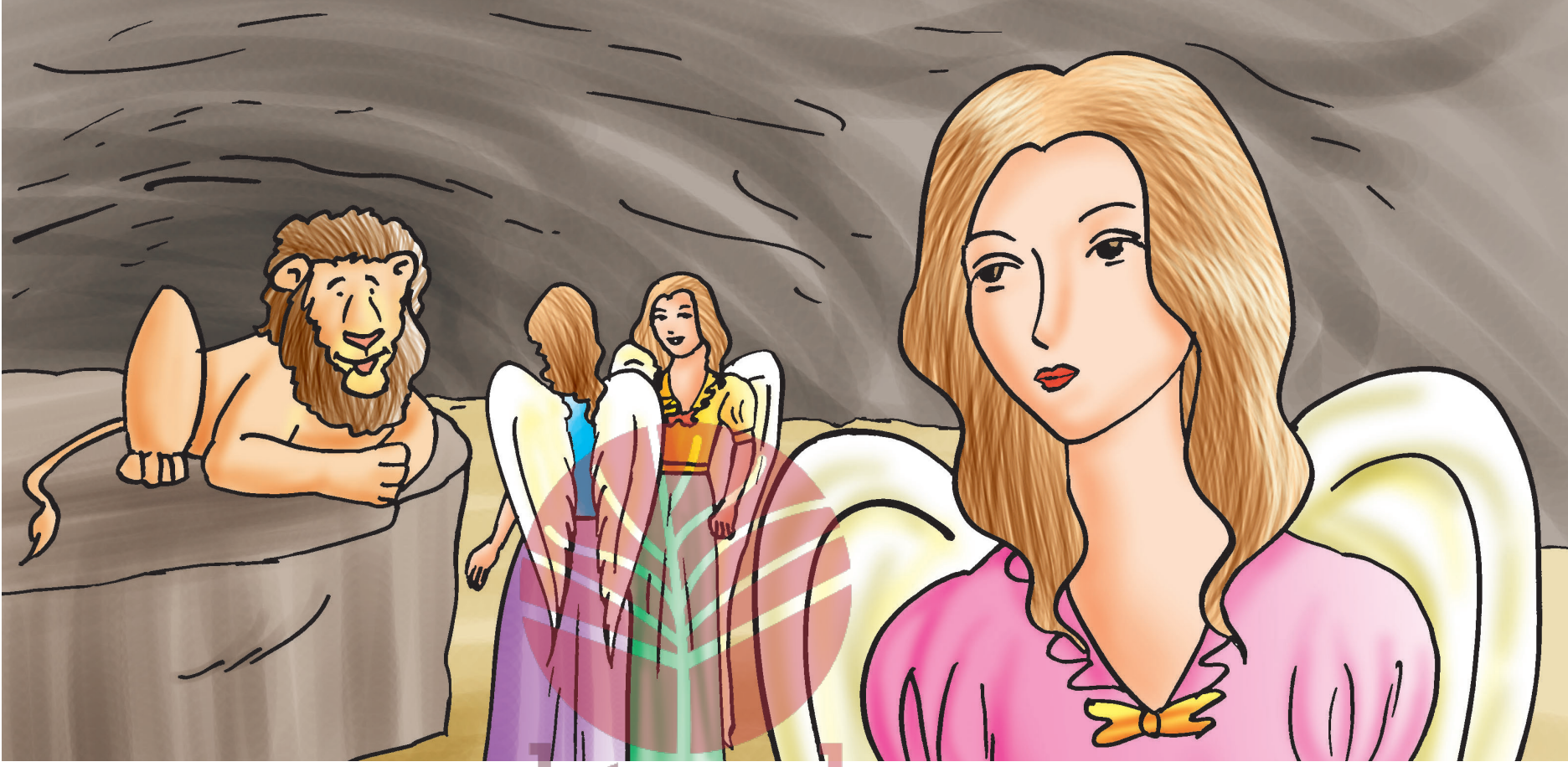
The fairies became friendly with the Lion King and greeted him every day. The Lion got a freshly hunted animal to fulfil his appetite every day. He was delighted. The fairies nicely served him meals. They narrated stories to him and in vacant time strolled in the jungle. All the fairies were glad. They started liking their routine so much that they became unwilling to return to their fairyland.



But Shikha fairy was aware that within four days time they must return to their fairyland at any cost. Otherwise, the effect of the magic will be lost and the Lion will be able to see their true selves. Then he would not spare them. However, she could not reveal this truth to other fairies. This was an order from the Queen Fairy because if the secret was disclosed, they would feel offended. How could they accept that instead of beautiful fairies they were appearing as ferocious animals to the Lion! That is why Shikha fairy did not reveal this secret to them.

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Finally, the last day approached. The Lion was relishing his meal. When he raised his head after finishing his meal he saw small pretty girls. He was stunned as to what had happened to him. Perhaps, it was his whim!

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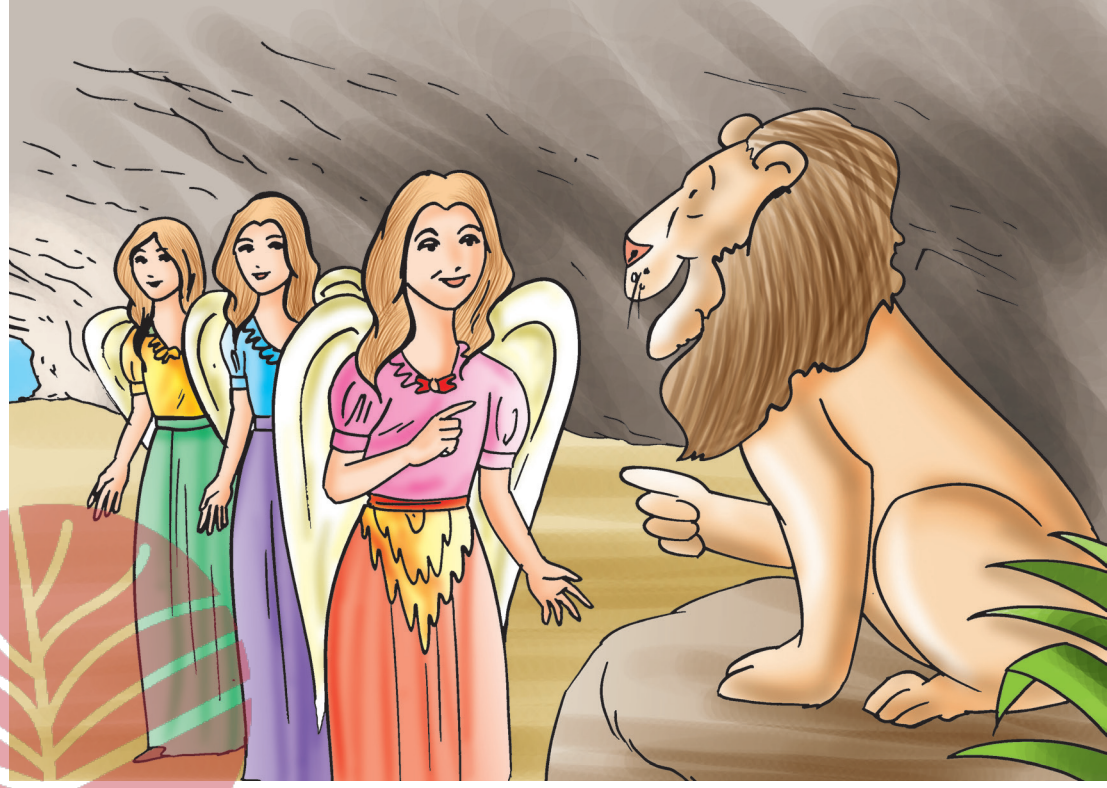

Shikha fairy understood the dilemma of the Lion. On observing his actions, she drew all her strength and decided to tell the truth to him. He was happy to hear the voice of innocent heart. He was pleased to learn that ferocious animals are also loved. He said, "It is a matter of pride for me that you people also desire to meet animals like us."

Shikha fairy took this opportunity to speak, "Lion King! You are so good, in spite of this you kill more animals than your appetite could allow! This has made the other animals in the jungle sad."

Lion replied at once, "Now the animals of the jungle will never have such complaints. You fairies have taught me a lesson that one should desire things according to one's need. Why unnecessarily bow to desire? Why should I kill more? Now I have understood the meaning of satisfaction."

The Lion came out of the den and spoke to all the animals, "These are the fairies of the fairyland. Now they are returning to their home. It is the duty of all of us to request them to visit us again."

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The fairies were delighted because they had succeeded in changing the attitude of the Lion King. They said to the animals, "The King has promised to consume only as much that satisfies his hunger. This is a reason for rejoicement."

All animals bade fond farewell to the fairies. In addition, they invited them again to the jungle. Their fear had been allayed. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the fairies. It was like a new dawn in their lives.

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